

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 11:00 a.m.

Board called to order by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Invocation was given by Supervisor Michael O'Connor, Chaplain.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Sokol.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Gabriels, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Mason, O'Connor Kenny, Belden, Bentley, W. Thomas, Tessier, Merlino, Stec, Caimano, Champagne, VanNess, Sokol, F. Thomas and Haskell - 19.

Absent: Supervisor Geraghty - 1.

Clerk announced the first order of business would be the selection of a Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Stec nominated Mr. Kenny as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. O'Connor.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Tessier moved that the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for William Kenny as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Caimano, and carried unanimously.

Clerk requested Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Girard to escort Mr. Kenny to the Chair. The board members acknowledged Mr. Kenny with a round of applause.

Mr. Kenny thanked the members of the board for the honor of being selected Temporary Chairman. He also made the following remarks:

"I would like to say a few things about the Chairman of the Board, William Thomas. What makes a good leader? Some people believe that good leaders are born. We have often heard the phrase 'he is a born leader'. Nonsense. It's not genetics. It is, however, spending time in the trenches, making good decisions, as well as bad ones, along the way that develop the character of a good leader. A good leader has the ability to inspire those that surround him. A good leader has the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and he must develop the thickest skin imaginable. A good leader is lavished with praise when things are going well, and accepts total responsibility when things go awry.

"Our leader, Bill Thomas, has all of these attributes. He has led us through the building of the new Public Safety Building, he has led us through the successful refinancing of the Trash Plant that will save our taxpayers millions, and he has led us through the often long and

tenuous trip of developing a successful occupancy law that will also save the taxpayers of Warren County \$1 million for every year that it is enforced. Our occupancy tax will also triple our promotional efforts, leading to many additional visitors who will reinforce our economy with their vacation dollars.

“Having the ability to lead and to train others to lead, rounds out my description of a good leader. Martin Luther King once said that a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus, but a molder of consensus. I believe that our leader, Bill Thomas, is our very own molder of consensus.”

Mr. Kenny stated the next order of business would be the selection of a Permanent Chairman.

Mr. Haskell stated it was an honor to nominate William Thomas as Permanent Chairman, and Mr. Monroe stated he would second the motion.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Gabriels moved the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for William Thomas as Permanent Chairman, seconded by Mr. Champagne, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Kenny, Temporary Chairman, requested Mr. VanNess and Mr. Belden to escort Mr. W. Thomas to the Chair. The board members acknowledged Mr. W. Thomas with a round of applause.

Chairman Thomas subscribed to the Constitutional Oath as administered by Pamela Vogel, County Clerk.

Chairman Thomas presented the following remarks:

**“STATE OF THE COUNTY
JANUARY 3, 2007**

“Being re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for a seventh year is an honor and privilege I will always remember. I would like to express my sincere thanks to members of the Board, and to pledge as I have for the past six years, to do my utmost to keep you fully informed on all issues and to dedicate myself to whatever time it requires to fulfill my responsibilities as your chairman.

“The replacement of the building which currently houses Social Services has been a major project this past year. The deteriorated building dates back to 1928 when it was used for a Tuberculosis Sanitarium. From 1957 to 1981 it housed our Westmount Health Facility, and when the new nursing home was built, Social Services moved into the space. The concept of building a Health and Human Services Building came about as the space

constraints at the Municipal Center, particularly for Health Services, reached a critical point. The supervisors also looked at moving Office for the Aging and Employment & Training Administration back to the county campus after several years of renting space for these departments in other locations.

“John Haskell, Chairman of the County Facilities Committee, has worked diligently on this project and I would like to thank him for the time and energy he has given throughout this project, from discussion stages to hiring of architects and engineers, to schematic design and design documents ready to bid. He met with architects and engineers for many hours on many days, and also found the time to sit in on the meetings between the department heads and architect to assure all options that might save dollars for the taxpayers were being explored.

“As John worked on the Health and Human Services Building, he also involved himself in the process of trying to alleviate space needs in the Municipal Center for both the county offices and the courts. The complexities of the issues have caused this part of the project to be stalled for now, but after spending several hours involved in the process, John will again be a key person in resolving these issues in 2007. John, we sincerely thank you for your dedication and the many hours of work you have spent on these projects.

“At the December Special Board Meeting, it was the consensus of the board members to hold off on the bonding of a new building, to allow time to review all options available to the County. I am sure this project will be in the forefront this year as we reach decisions on the best way to proceed.

“During this past year, we also looked at the feasibility of creating a convention and sports authority. Following the analysis of a study prepared by The Pinnacle Group, the supervisors voted to withdraw their request for state legislation providing for this to proceed. In order to keep tourism strong in Warren County it is necessary to investigate all options, and I feel this not only demonstrates that need, but shows that common sense can and does prevail. I applaud the supervisors for their cautious decision-making and the foresight to study the program before leaping forward.

“As of 2007, all tourism expenses have been absorbed by The Occupancy Tax funding. We learned a great deal working with Paul Kaza Associates since Fall of 2005. In 2007, we will see the department progress in a direction which will bring many of the items previously contracted for, in-house. A creative director has been hired, and together with the other department staff, they will be performing many of the duties Mr. Kaza previously contracted with us to do. The entire tourism staff, and Nick Caimano, Budget Officer, who put a tremendous amount of time into this evolution, should be commended for the work they have done.

“When the Budget Officer presented his Budget Message, he pointed out that county

government has the overreaching responsibility to provide the safety net whenever and wherever in the county it is needed. We are very fortunate in Warren County that we have department heads and employees that are dedicated to serving the public and meeting their needs. I have great respect for them and have always found them cooperative and eager to assist in solving the safety net issues, as well as performing the day-to-day tasks.

“As we talk about our budget, and all of the things we do for the taxpayers, it is important to stress the need for prudent spending in the years ahead. Recent reports from the State Division of Local Government Services and Economic Development confirmed that increases in state revenue sharing to municipalities have not kept pace with inflation. Even with the large increases in aid included in this year’s state budget, the report said, local governments only received half of what they received in 1989 when adjusted for inflation. We as a Board of Supervisors need to be diligent in lobbying the State to remove unreasonable fiscal pressures and to also look at ways to spend efficiently.

“To that end, I have made the Municipal Shared Services Committee a standing committee, not a special committee, starting this year. I hope in the interest of budgeting and cooperation, that we as a county can find ways to share services that will benefit the taxpayers and help maintain a budget that is reasonable.

“As we plan for the future and start our 2007 spending plan, I urge the supervisors and the department heads to keep in mind our commitments to things like our building projects, the implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and the intermunicipal agreement for the shared purchase of the Gaslight Village and Waxlife USA property with the Village and Town of Lake George, needed to preserve the quality of our “Queen of Lakes,” Lake George.

“As I close my remarks, I would once again like to publicly thank the department heads and county workforce for their commitment to public service.

“I wish each and everyone assembled today a happy and prosperous New Year and a year filled with good health.

William H. Thomas
Warren County Board of Supervisors”

The Board responded with applause.

Chairman called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

State of New York State Board of Elections, Republican Party recommendation of Mary Beth Casey to the office of Commissioner of Elections and Democratic

Party recommendation of William Montfort to the office of Commissioner of Elections.

William Lamy, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW), making the following appointments for the year 2007: Brian N. Humphrey, Acting Superintendent of DPW and Deputy Superintendent of DPW; William L. Remington, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works/Environmental & Engineering Services; Rose Lamy, DPW Records Officer and Deputy Superintendent of DPW for Administration; John Farrell, Director of Natural Disaster and Civil Defense; Marshall B. Stevens, Airport Manager. Brian N. Humphrey, William L. Remington and Rose Lamy are hereby given the authority to sign all documents (vouchers, purchase orders, contracts, etc.) for the Department of Public Works in the absence of Mr. Lamy.

Communications ordered placed on file.

Chairman Thomas noted the memorandum on each of the Supervisors desks advising that the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate had increased to 48.5 cents per mile for 2007, a copy of said memorandum is on file with the minutes.

Chairman Thomas extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor VanNess. Mr. VanNess apprised he had spoken with the Board members regarding Resolution No. 1 of 2007, in which the dates of the regular Board meetings for the year were determined. He further explained that following discussions, the Rules Committee had recommended moving the regular Board meeting from the second Friday following the first Monday of each month, to the third Friday of each month. He added that two of the Supervisors had conflicts with regard to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) meetings.

Motion was made by Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. Gabriels and carried unanimously to waive the rules requiring the proposed resolution be in writing.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Sheehan to amend Section 3 of Resolution No. 1 of 2007, to change the dates of the regular Board meetings to the third Friday of each month for the year.

Mr. O'Connor clarified the dates were always set as the first Friday after the second Monday of the month, not just the second Friday of the month. He questioned if the motion was to set it for the third Friday of every month regardless of where Monday fell. Mr. Monroe agreed, and stated it would be different if it were set as the third Friday of each month as opposed to the first Friday following the third Monday.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 1 of 2007 as stated.

Motion was made by Mr. Caimano and seconded Mr. Kenny to include in the amendment to Resolution No. 1 of 2007, the elimination of the terminology of Monday, and stating specifically the third Friday of each month for the dates of the regular Board meetings.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to remove the terminology of Monday in Resolution No. 1 of 2007, as well as changing the dates of the regular Board meetings to the third Friday of each month.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if the amendment would be effective immediately, changing the date of the regular Board meeting for January from January 12th to January 19th; and Chairman Thomas replied affirmatively.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, expounded the monthly Committee meetings would be starting on the Wednesday following the Board meeting each month.

Chairman Thomas advised there had also been discussions regarding consolidation of some Committees. Mr. Champagne added that he had been comparing Warren County to neighboring counties, and he had determined that Warren County had more Committees than any other county around. He suggested looking at combining certain Committees, or as suggested by Mr. O'Connor, attempting to implement more joint Committee meetings. Chairman Thomas said that this discussion had pointed out the need for more in-depth discussions on the issue in the near future.

William Lamy, Superintendent of DPW, commented that one problem was that following a departments individual Committee meeting, business needed to continue until the next Board meeting, which sometimes led to last minute resolution requests. He recommended that Department Heads be given more flexibility to enable them to take care of some ministerial actions that had been required to come before the Committee, resulting in resolutions. Mr. Belden added that another solution in cutting back on the number of resolutions may be to include all the requests on one if possible, rather than having ten resolution requests, for example, include all ten capital projects on one resolution.

Mr. Monroe noted if the Board was going to implement this procedure, one area to look at would be to decide what responsibilities could be delegated to the Department Heads to make decisions. Mr. Caimano added that the County Attorney ought to be involved in these discussions to make sure the County was following legal procedures.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions.

Clerk noted a motion was necessary to bring Resolution Nos. 1 through 24 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Gabriels and carried unanimously, to bring Resolution Nos. 1 through 24 to the floor.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

Mr. Monroe requested a roll call vote on Resolution No. 11 of 2007, Appointing Representatives to Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Resolution Nos. 1 through 24 were approved. Certificate of Appointments, naming members representing rural areas of Warren County on the Policy Committee of the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council; naming members to the Technical Committee of the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council; naming Director of the Warren County Youth Bureau; naming members to the Warren County Youth Board; naming members to the Warren County Labor/Management Committee; naming member to the Quality Assurance Committee of the Westmount Health Facility; naming representative to the Lake George Watershed Conference, were submitted.

Chairman Thomas announced the 2007 Standing and Special Committees, and a copy of the committee listings was submitted. A copy was also distributed to each supervisor.

Chairman Thomas requested an executive session to discuss the employment or appointment of a particular person. Motion was made by Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. Haskell and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 11:45 a.m. to 11:48 a.m.

Board reconvened.

Pursuant to executive session, motion was made by Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. Gabriels and carried unanimously to waive the rules requiring the proposed resolution be in writing.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously to appoint Wayne Wright as Warren County Historian to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Clerk noted this would be Resolution No. 25 of 2007.

Mr. Belden requested that a plaque or certificate of appreciation be presented to Marjorie Swan, who would be retiring from the position of Warren County Historian this month, in recognition of her years of service to the County. Chairman Thomas agreed and said that would be done for the January 19th Board meeting.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Stec, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.